

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Report on Canned Foods Week Issued

A copy of the report on Canned Foods Week in 1925 has been mailed to each member of the Association. If any member has failed to receive his copy, please write the office at Washington and another will be sent.

Dutiable Weight of Pineapple

In another decision involving the dutiable weight of pineapple in tins, the U. S. Board of General Appraisers, passing upon a protest filed by the Keystone Fruit Products Company of Cleveland, has held on the authority of *Peabody v. United States* (noted in Information Letter 112) that pineapple cut in slices and chunks packed in water in tins is dutiable on the weight of the fruit exclusive of the surrounding liquid; but the Board at the same time overruled the claim so far as it applied to crushed pineapple. It will be recalled that, following the *Peabody* case decision, the Board of General Appraisers overruled a protest filed by an importer who sought the lower rate, but who failed to offer competent proof as to the method of preparing the fruit and did not make clear what the juice consisted of.

Agricultural Magic

There are on the market a number of proprietary materials whose use by growers and canners will be attended by most wonderful results, if the extravagant claims made by their manufacturers may be believed. In general, such claims refer to improvement in yield and quality of crops through the addition of soil nutrients.

The agricultural authorities of Wisconsin are said to be taking measures to forbid the sale of one of these proprietaries in that State.

Another which recently came to the attention of the Raw Products Bureau is being recommended by its maker for use by growers of cannery tomatoes. The only value claimed in this case is fertilizer value. The cost of the proprietary material figures a little over \$1,000 per ton, while fertilizer of equivalent analysis is worth at current prices about \$80 per ton.

Agricultural experiment stations are generally prompt in investigating the merits of new materials and of new methods of soil and crop improvement. In the absence of any information regarding the results of such impartial investigations, canners may do well to exercise due caution in large-scale use of these proprietary materials for which claims are made smacking of agricultural magic.

Scientific research in agriculture, in soils and crop production is year by year, developing new knowledge for the use of the grower and the canner. The application of such research will result in more efficient production and in more complete protection of crops from insects, from disease, and from unfavorable conditions. Growers of canners' crops should not, however, confuse the invaluable achievements of agricultural research with the extravagant claims of manufacturers exploiting proprietary products of unproved value.

Revenue Freight Loadings

Revenue freight loadings from January 1 to February 27, inclusive, totalled 8,108,459 cars, according to reports filed with the American Railway Association. This was an increase of 28,463 cars over the corresponding period last year, and an increase of 182,370 over the corresponding period in 1924.

For the week ending February 27, loadings of revenue freight totaled 912,658 cars. Due to the observance of Washington's Birthday, this was a decrease of 19,085 cars compared with the preceding week. It was, however, an increase of 48,562 over the same week last year, which also included a holiday.

Procedure for Inquiries Regarding Tax Liability

Requests are being received daily by the Internal Revenue for rulings and advice upon abstract cases or prospective transactions involving questions of income tax and profits liability.

These requests are so numerous and the insistence on prompt action so great that the Bureau has announced a policy to govern the consideration of these requests. The Bureau will not answer any inquiry except under the following circumstances:

- (a) The transaction must be completed and not merely proposed or planned.
- (b) The complete facts relating to the transaction, together with abstracts from contracts, or other documents, necessary to present the complete facts, must be given.
- (c) The names of all the real parties interested (not "dummies" used in the transaction) must be stated regardless of who presents the question, whether attorney, accountant, tax service, or other representative.
- (d) A request for a ruling must be signed by the taxpayer, or in case he is represented by an attorney or agent, the request must be accompanied by properly executed power of attorney. Banks, however, will not be required to furnish powers of attorney with respect to inquiries affecting their depositors.
- (e) A copy of a ruling addressed to a taxpayer will not be furnished to his attorney or agent unless the Bureau is specifically authorized to do so by the taxpayer.

Canning Crops Edition Issued

The Indiana Farmers Guide on February 27 issued its canning crops number devoted largely to articles on the growing of commercial canning crops and also containing several interesting articles on home economics relating particularly to the value and use of commercially canned foods. A number of the articles were contributed by members of the Purdue University Experiment Station Staff, and they discuss such subjects as tomato cultural practices, work of the Ten Ton clubs, improvement of tomato seed and of sweet corn varieties, requisites for high quality tomato fruits, and pea production.

Blight-Resistant Pears

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., announces that two new sorts of pears recently developed on the station grounds are believed to be highly resistant to blight and of excellent quality. They have been named the Phelps and Pulteney and both are of the Bartlett type. Planting stocks of the new pears are now available.

Coming Cannery Conventions

The semi-annual meeting of the Western Cannery Association will be held in Chicago on April 15 and 16. The Michigan Cannery Association will hold its meeting at East Lansing on April 13 and 14.

Refuses to Reverse Customs Ruling on Salmon

The Treasury Department in a recent decision has refused to reverse its ruling that salmon canned at Ketchikan, Alaska, and shipped in transit through Canada to other places in the United States, under Section 544 of the Tariff Act, and which shippers desire to label at Prince Rupert, B. C., under the supervision of the U. S. Customs officer, using labels printed in the United States, would thus be advanced in value in the foreign country and therefore would not be entitled to free entry upon arrival at a port of the United States.

Making the Most of Canned Vegetables

In the Food Service section of Hotel Management for February is an illustrated article by Mary Hale Martin on "How They Are Building Sales with Canned Vegetables", giving suggestions to hotel and restaurant managers, to whom "it is now a matter for concern when the customer's order does not include at least one vegetable other than potatoes".

Of the many excellent things in the article, the following will probably appeal most to the canner who packs quality products and who hopes for the best and widest use of those products:

"It has been my observation of people who use canned foods both in the home and in the restaurant that they become careless. They seem to think that, because the laborious part of the cooking has been done for them in the canning plant, all they need to do is to open the can, heat the vegetable to a lukewarm state, pour it into a dish and place it on the table, which is decidedly the wrong attitude to take. It is not giving them the chance they deserve."

Effect of Pea Crop on Succeeding Oats Crop

Observations in Wisconsin in 1925 show the striking effect of the pea crop in increasing the yield of oats. Oats after peas yielded 68 bushels per acre while oats after corn yielded 47.3 bushels, or a difference of 20.7 bushels in favor of peas. The height of oats after peas was 35 inches, and after corn 27.6 inches.